

WOKING RALLY STUNS CASUAL WANDERERS

Three-goal jolt in last 20 minutes

Woking 3, Wycombe Wanderers 3

WYCOMBE WANDERERS, cruising comfortably along with a three-goal lead after 70 minutes, were shaken rigid by a determined fight-back which earned Woking a point on Tuesday evening.

There was no doubting the Wanderers' right to be ahead for, after surviving a hectic opening ten minutes, they settled down to play some cultured football. It was a case of Wycombe taking Woking's late challenge, perhaps, a little too easily and casually. In a dramatic final 20 minutes the Wanderers' defence cracked wide open to concede three "soft" goals.

Woking opened dangerously and Maskell pulled off quite an incredible save from Tindall when the centre-forward looked certain to score with his head. Wanderers' keeper rescued his side, again, when Faulkner was caught on the wrong foot, and Maskell blocked Tindall's drive with Rundle clearing the rebound.

After this early pressure Wycombe gradually took control, but were somewhat fortunate to be ahead after 18 minutes. Horseman, evading one tackle, squared the ball back across the box and Busby's rather weak shot slipped through Farris' hands.

TENACIOUS THOMPSON

Given the tonic of an early goal Wycombe quickly settled and started to make the ball do the work, which is always an encouraging sign. Young Stuart Thompson, still deputising for the injured Keith Samuels, obviously lacks experience at this level but, nevertheless, gave a tenacious display.

In the 31st minute Wycombe went further ahead with a great move which would have opened up any defence in the Isthmian League. Horseman started the move in mid-field by slipping a pass to Merrick, Busby pulled down the left-winger's cross pushing the ball into the path of Horseman who shot into the corner.

Four minutes before the interval John Beck was fouled by O'Riordan. He was replaced by Peter Eyes and has sustained torn knee ligaments.

At the start of the second half there was no hint of the drama to follow with Wycombe still very much the superior team. Horseman and Busby both had good efforts well saved by Farris.

Wanderers scored again in the 63rd minute—a goal which appeared to settle the issue. Worley's cross was too strong and Merrick quickly flicked the ball back into the goalmouth, where Horseman saw his header punched over the bar by centre-half Lewis. Tony, of course, made no mistake from the spot.

Wycombe seemed content with their lead and now settled down to consolidate their position. However, they were shaken out of their complacency as Woking bounced right back into the game with a two goals in a minute spell.

POOR CLEARANCE

Left-back Elton picked up a poor clearance from the Wycombe defence and Tindall bent low to head his cross past Maskell's outstretched hand. No sooner had the cheering died down when Maskell was beaten again by Waughan.

Wycombe certainly looked rattled and the initiative was with Woking. They hammered the equaliser in the 82nd minute, as McPhee was left unmarked from a throw-in and, after making ground into the Wycombe area his low cross was steered home by Tindall.

Fortunately Woking's great recovery had taken its toll and they could not raise enough steam to press on for a further goal. Wycombe may still have taken both points had not Horseman's snap drive flashed inches wide of a post in the last minute.